



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2003

CONTACT: Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor)
(517) 373-2406

*******MEDIA AVAILABILITY*******

**POLLUTERS WON'T PAY UNDER REPUBLICAN
WATER DISCHARGE BILL**

LANSING---Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) will be available to the media to discuss polluter pay legislation immediately following the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee meeting on Thursday June 12, 2003. The Committee meets from 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in Room 110 of the Farnum Building.

The following statement addresses the concerns about this legislation that Senator Brater will discuss tomorrow morning:

The Republican substitute to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) legislation is ineffective and a slap in the face to all Michigan residents who care about safe and pollutant-free water.

The current Republican proposal is a full \$2 million less than what Governor Granholm and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) proposed in the budget recommendation for fiscal year 2004. The \$7.2 million proposed by the Governor and DEQ for the NPDES permit program is necessary for the DEQ to effectively monitor compliance and help control water pollution in our state. Without appropriate funding, the DEQ will not be able to ensure that companies and municipalities only discharge within the legal limits.

Without enforcement, polluters will continue to discharge toxic chemicals and other harmful substances into our water, posing health and safety risks for all Michigan residents.

#####